

their temper, chilled the^r ardour or
 diminished thar zest,
 any more than it has slackened their || ork
 Disappointment*
 have not soured them, or dimmed their

" Cheerful faith
 That all that \\e behold is full of blessings"

They are not bored with themselves, 01 \\with
 otLei people
 They have not, despite plentiful temptations,
 taken refuge
 in any variant of cynicism They are as
 keen, in then
 seventies, as they were in their thirties, as
 capable as their
 swift reaction to Russia showed, of being
 thrilled

They may be " queer people " In some
 senses, they are
 He has a queer absence of vanity, and of
 personal digmtv
 She has a queer lack not only of shyness but of
 any under-
 standing of its roots Both are without certain
 sensibilities
 which those in whom they happen to be accute
 feel so \\ital
 that they cannot understand how persons as
 intelligent as
 the Webbs manage to exist without them The
 Webb vvoid
 lacks some attributes of what most of us call
 the real"
 world, and their picture of it is simplified,
 perhaps artificially,
 by that lack Sometimes this colour-blindness,
 if one may
 call it so, imparts a naivete, a fair) -tale
 element into their
 judgments More often it operates as a kind of
 bleach If
 everybody were like them, something of
 lustre, some-
 thing of poignancy, something of joy, would
 go, as well
 as a great deal of muddlement, of waste, of
 stupidity, of
 cruelty, and of ugliness It would be rather a
 homespun
 world, but there would be homespun in it for
 everybody

She once, in a companson she was
 drawing, \\ith a

characteristic large freedom of outline, between
the Japanese
and the Chinese, based her sense of the
superiority of the
former on the view that they possessed, and the
Chinese did
not, what she called "the three essentials "
She, always,
generalises much more freely than he does, she
is responsible,
therefore, for a larger proportion of quotable
remarks But